



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Long Term Stewardship Committee

Meeting Summary

August 7, 2002
Aiken Federal Building
Aiken, SC

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Long Term Stewardship (LTS) Committee held a meeting on August 7, at the Aiken Federal Building, Aiken, SC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the composite analysis, Savannah River Site (SRS) status at closure, the National Environmental Research Park (NERP) status, the National Security Site status, and hear public comment. Those in attendance were:

CAB Members

Nancy Ann Ciehanski*
Jean Sulc*
Beckie Dawson*
David Adcock*
J.G. Long
Murray Riley

Stakeholders

Sam Booher
Mike French
Todd Crawford
Karl Overcash
Tom Rolka, DHEC

DOE/Contractors

Terry Vought, DOE
de'Lisa Bratcher, DOE
Dennis Ryan, DOE
Chuck Borup, DOE
John Gladden, WSRC-SRTC
Mike Serrato, WSRC-SRTC
Jim Cook, WSRC-SRTC
Ed Stevens, WSRC-SRTC
Tom Butcher, WSRC-SRTC
Jim Moore, WSRC

* Members of the LTS Committee

**Note: Carolyn Williams, Meryl Alalof, Ann Dalton and Mel Galin, CAB members of the LTS Committee, were not able to attend.

Nancy Ann Ciehanski, Chair, welcomed those in attendance and asked them to introduce themselves.

Composite Analysis

Jim Cook, WSRC Savannah River Technology Center (SRTC), stated that from his perspective, long-term stewardship seemed to have a very stovepipe view. Each division at SRS sees long-term stewardship from a different vantage point. Environmental Restoration considers long-term stewardship after the sites are closed, remediated and stabilized. Waste Management considers it when their waste is disposed of. High-Level Waste sees long-term stewardship when the tanks close or the waste is shipped to a repository.

Mr. Cook said that long-term stewardship begins today since actions taken today have an impact far into the future. The comprehensive environmental management systems approach was conceived as part of DOE's response to the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board (DNFSB) 94-2. It ensures the long-term protection of public health and safety and the environment from all sources of radioactive material after remediation and disposal programs are completed. The comprehensive tool integrates all programs and elements to facilitate management decisions leading to safe and cost effective site-wide long-term

stewardship. The tool identifies all potential sources of dose or risk on a site, estimates residual inventories and evaluates management options for risk reduction.

A modeling process was reviewed. The LTS management tool is a site-wide analysis that can be developed from existing methodologies and technologies such as composite analysis, performance assessments and the geographical information system. It can be applied to regions of a site containing multiple potential sources of contamination near low-level waste disposal facilities. A study was completed on the central part of the site, the General Separations Area. 114 facilities were involved and 115 radionuclides. The geographical information system can display the environmental data in space and time and provides analysis capability. The system allows the managers to do what-if analysis.

During discussions Mr. Cook indicated that at this time there is no funding or mandate to proceed with this system. He estimated it would take between one-half million to one million dollars and take a couple of years to develop. Mr. Cook said that they were continuing to try to find methods to fund this work.

During this discussion, it was asked how long-term stewardship could be institutionalized? Terry Vought stated that he felt long-term stewardship was institutionalized. The DOE-HQ organization (EM-51) has been chartered to lead the LTS effort (part of how institutionalizing was defined). Mr. Vought stated that stewardship and long-term stewardship sometimes get interchanged. When Environmental Management (EM) work is complete, the landlord that has the continuing missions, in this case the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), could take over the long-term stewardship functions. There currently is a Project Baseline Summary for long-term stewardship.

SRS Status at Closure

Chuck Borup, DOE, stated that to understand what is happening in long-term stewardship, the planning process needed to be understood and followed. The planning process is the key since a particular plan is just a snapshot in time of the planning process. Mr. Borup reviewed the planning hierarchy starting with the Strategic Plan and going down to the details of the Project Plans. Mr. Borup expressed the importance of keeping involved in this planning process to influence long-term stewardship. Mr. Borup explained how the SRS uses the teamwork approach for planning and has a Planning Board made up of all the various site programs.

Mr. Borup reviewed the planning assumptions and stated that they were very consistent with the CAB vision statement of 1996. Mr. Borup emphasized that DOE will continue long-term stewardship, site boundaries will remain unchanged, residential use will never be allowed, a sustainable base of natural resources will be maintained and SRS will continue as a National Security Site. The Comprehensive Plan is an important component of long-term stewardship as it serves as the primary overall plan for LTS at SRS. Lower level project specific plans will be developed based on the Comprehensive Plan. Because change is inevitable, the planning process is established to address changing conditions. The Comprehensive Plan is updated to reflect the changes as needed. Chapter 8 of the Comprehensive Plan will be expanded during the next update. Timing of this update is still up in the air due to recent management changes at the site as well as uncertainties related to evolving programs.

Mr. Borup reviewed Jessie Roberson's definition of long-term stewardship. Due to uncertainties in such areas as technology, costs, regulatory requirements, collateral damage, evolving missions and timing, the development of specific LTS solutions is often not possible until programs and facilities are nearing the end of their lifecycle, and as a result, long-term stewardship plans will often change. While the present landlord at SRS, Environmental Management drives to clean up the site, the landlord responsibilities will eventually change to the NNSA. In conclusion, Mr. Borup reiterated that as long as an effective and integrated planning process is in place, there will be continuous stakeholder involvement, LTS requirements will be visible, and protection will be a continual process. End states will be developed as part of the plan, and at SRS, LTS will be individual areas managed by a landlord.

National Environmental Research Park (NERP) Status

Dennis Ryan, DOE, reviewed the history of the NERP. He stated that the cold war nuclear materials and weapons production required large, isolated sites. The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) wanted to track radioactive fallout and inadvertent releases from its facilities. In 1967, the Hanford Site was established as an Arid Lands Ecology Reserve.

Mr. Ryan explained that a NERP is a DOE land holding and outdoor laboratory open to environmental research, especially energy-related studies. In 1970, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) set environmental goals and subsequent laws. An AEC review of SRS environmental research activities identified the site as a prime location for ecological research. SRS was designated as the first NERP in 1972. There are six other sites that are NERPs. They are Hanford, Idaho, Fermilab, Nevada, Los Alamos, and Oak Ridge. The NERP Charter objectives are as follows:

- Develop methods to quantitatively and continuously assess and monitor the environmental impact of human activities.
- Develop methods to estimate or predict the environmental response to proposed and ongoing activities.
- Demonstrate the impact of various activities on the environment and evaluate methods to minimize impacts.
- Train people in ecological and environmental sciences.
- Use for educating the public on environmental and ecological issues.

Mr. Ryan stated that the NERP at SRS is a component of the DOE Natural Resources Management Program. The Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) and the Forest Service mainly manage and control the activities of the NERP. Some other organizations are involved, but not to a great extent.

For more information on NERPs, the following web sites are available:

- <http://128.219.30.74/index.html>
- http://www.uga.edu/srel/Fact_Sheets/nerp.htm

During discussions, it was asked about institutionalizing the site as a NERP. Mr. Ryan said that you could make the argument that it is institutionalized since DOE can't actually make a change. He stated that four or five years ago there was some interest to get permanent congressional action. Mr. Ryan said that at SRS, the whole site is considered a NERP.

National Security Site Status

Terry Vought, DOE, stated that the reference in the draft Performance Management Plan to SRS as a National Security Site was a reference to the NNSA as the landlord. Just as the Defense Programs used to be the landlord of the site, as the cold war ended, the site landlord became an EM site. When EM cleanup scales down, the majority of the funding will be in NNSA and it will then become the landlord.

Other

Ms. Ciechanski asked about funding for long-term stewardship. What could be done to make sure funding is consistently available. Mr. Vought said that he thought Oak Ridge tried to get a trust fund on long-term stewardship but failed. He said he would follow up with Oak Ridge to get more information.

Ms. Ciechanski announced that Meryl Alalof has agreed to become the Vice Chair of the Long Term Stewardship Committee.

The next meeting is August 26 at the Ramada Inn in Beaufort. The Vision, draft DOE-HQ Long Term Stewardship Strategic Plan, and the Workplan will be reviewed. Ms. Ciehanski requested that anyone having comments on these items should get them to us.

Ed Stevens, WSRC, when asked, responded that at the start of the Saltstone process, some lines became plugged up. The grout material set up too fast. There has been a change in procedures and they plan to restart in mid-August. There was no danger from contamination.

Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Ms. Ciehanski adjourned the meeting.

Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling 1-800-249-8155.

Action Items:

- Add John Gladden and Mike Serrato to the distribution list for the Long Term Stewardship Committee.
- Becky Gaston-Dawson and Mike French requested copies of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Sam Booher requested if possible that when plans are tiered from the Strategic Plan, that sections such as long-term stewardship activities/goals are somehow identified in each plan with a corresponding identification number or identity so that long-term stewardship can be easily found in each plan. This would assure that if an objective were identified in the Strategic Plan that the details of that objective have been taken into consideration in the detailed plans.
- Becky Gaston-Dawson requested that she be given information related to the educational outreach program at SREL. Her interest was in having school classes have a tour of SREL and SRS.
- Sam Booher requested that in the next version of the Comprehensive Plan that the language of Industrial Support Zone, be changed back to just Buffer Zone.
- Nancy Ann Ciehanski requested a verification that the local governmental offices have or don't have information related to deed restrictions or information on the Savannah River site.
- Terry Vought said he would check with Oak Ridge to determine the status of their request of DOE-HQ to set aside funding or have a trust fund for long-term stewardship activities.